(c) what is the estimate of losses so far; and

(d) what steps have been or are being taken to prevent such thefts in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) There is no systematic pilferage of oil from its wells at Ankleshwar and Gandhar in Gujarat, though some cases of theft have been reported.

(b) There have been 31 cases of oil theft during the last five years. A total of 78 culprits involved in these cases have been arrested so far.

(c) Total net loss amounting to Rs. 8.029 lakhs on account of these 31 cases of oil theft, during the last five years.

(d) The details are given in the Statement below.

Statement

Details of steps taken by ONGC to Check Cases of Pilferage of Crude Oil at its different work centres

1. Joint inspection of oil wells and installations is being carried out by the Security and Production Departments of ONGC.

2. Regular inspection of wells and installations are being carried out by GGS staff.

3. Inspection of oil fields is also being carried out by security personnel at night.

4. Barbed wire fencing with concrete pillars have been erected around the wells.

5. Armed guards have been deployed in theft-prone areas.

6. Awareness is being created among local population about the hazards of oil pilferage and tampering with wells/pipelines.

7. Security Coordination Committees have been formed in projects, consisting of representatives from Unions, Officers' Association and various disciplines.

8. Underground flow lines are laid instead of exposed flow lines.

9. Continuous and regular interaction with the local police is being maintained.

10. FIRs are lodged without fail in all cases relating to line cutting flange opening and pilferage/theft of crude oil.

11. Transportaion of crude oil by private tankers is being monitored.

12. Transportation of crude oil by tankers during night has been reduced.

13. CISF personnel have been inducted at various projects.

14. Occasional air surveillance of oil fields and popelines is being conducted using helicopters.

15. Onshore Security Coordination Committee chaired by the Director General of Police, Gujarat has been constituted. Periodical meetings of this Committee are held.

16. Line walker system has been introduced at selected places.

LNG Terminal At Kochi

1812. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposal for the LNG terminal at Kochi is pending before the Central Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the steps taken by the Central Government for sorting out the differences between NTPC and PETRONET?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Based on the demand of existing consumers in the area, Petronet LNG Ltd. is setting up an LNG Terminal at Kochi (Cochin) in

Kerela. NTPC, State Government Corportations and other parties including financial institutions will participate in the project.

Supply of Gas by ONGC to Private Industries

1813. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ONGC is supplying gas to the private industries in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details of supply and the amount earned from each company for the last three years;

(c) whether any complaints have been received regarding the realisation of the value being less than the value of actual supply; and

(d) if so, any enquiry made and action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Government of India has recently permitted the ONGC to directly market natural gas upto 1 lakh Standard Cubic Metres Per Day (SCMD) from its small isolated fields. Accordingly, ONGC has commenced supply of gas directly to the following private industries in Gujarat:—

Name of Industry	Month of Commencement
1. C.G. Glass	August, 98
2. Prime Ceramics	September, 98
3. Wellsuit Glass	September, 98
4. Specific Ceramics	November, 98
5. Growmore Ceramics	December, 98

During the last three completed financial years *i.e.* from 1995-96 to 1997-98, there was no supply of gas directly by ONGC to the private industries.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

New Oil Wells in Assam

1814. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many new oil wells have been dug-up recently in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some insurgent groups have threatened to block the passage of oil out of Assam and to blow the new wells off was attempted; and

(d) if so, the measures taken by Government to thwart the announced threat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons is an on-going process. During the year 1998-99, a total of 37 (19 exploratory and 18 development) wells have been drilled.

(c) and (d) Some insurgent groups have threatened to block the passage of oil out of Assam and to blow the new wells off. Preventive measures have been taken by issuing red alert and intensifying security around the vital installations and pipelines so as to ensure the operation of normal activities without disruption.

Oil production in 1998-99

1815. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the target for oil production for 1998-99 and whether it was achieved;

(b) whether Government have any plan to enhance oil recovery from Bombay off-shore oilfield; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?